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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

SUBTERRANEAN PLANTS OF EPIPHEGUS.

(WITH ONE FIGURE)

HAVING need of *Epiphegus virginiana* in late October, 1900, I sought a piece of beech woods in Holbrook, Massachusetts, where I found the plant growing abundantly in rich, deep humus. It was past the flowering time of this species in the main, but the warm season that year was unusually protracted, and numerous short shoots were being produced from the swollen stem bases, upon which I found flowers and fruit in all stages of development. The flowers borne by these late branches are very small. They are all cleistogamous and invariably give rise to capsules filled with fertile seed.

Occasionally these secondary shoots were observed to be flowering somewhat below the surface of the ground. This fact led to further exploration, and on turning up the mold I found many shoots that for one reason or another had never escaped from the soil. They were as productive of fruit and seed as the aerial branches. Finally, I brought to light a number of whole plants that had come to maturity below the surface. They were buried one or two inches deep, and were dwarf specimens, an inch or less in height. They bore several fruits containing good seed. A life-size figure of two of these plants is given herewith.

Whether this variation is simply physiological and due to tardy germination or lack of nourishment, as seems probable, or is constitutional and inheritable, the case offers an interesting example of a phanerogam leading its existence, and indeed completing its entire cycle of life, underground.—R. G. LEAVITT, *The Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Massachusetts.*



NOTES OF TRAVEL. VIII.

AMERICAN AUTUMN FOLIAGE IN EUROPE.

AS I TRAVEL through the forests of Arkansas and feast my eyes upon the splendor of their autumn foliage, which is second in beauty